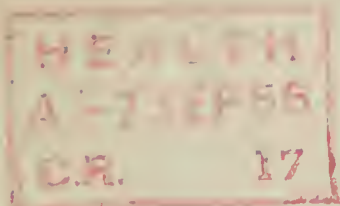


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NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

o-o-o

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health

STEPHEN KNIGHT  
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector


A.EDE - Certified Sanitary Inspector  
Certified Meat & Foods Inspector  
Sanitary Science Certificate

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

G.I.JONES - Certified Sanitary Inspector  
J.L.KELL - Certified Sanitary Inspector  
Certified Meat & Foods Inspector

Pest Officer

R.T.WOOLCOMBE.



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To the Chairman and Members of

THE NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District for the year 1955.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55, dated 23rd.November 1955.

Included in the Report is a section by Mr.A.Ede, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, on the Sanitary Inspection of the District and the refuse collection service. I am indebted to Mr.G.E.Knight, Surveyor and Engineer, for particulars of the Council's Water Undertaking and extensions to the sewerage systems.

As is usually the case the health statistics are favourable for the Rural District. The infantile mortality is very low and the District was free from serious outbreaks of disease.

Restrictions on capital expenditure continue in force and have caused delay and alteration in the Council's programme for sewerage schemes.

I am glad to be able to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to my colleagues for their co-operation, and to the Members of the Council for their help and support during the year.

I am,Mr.Chairman,Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955.





# NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area ( in acres)		86,218
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)		20,500
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1955)		5,838
Rateable Value ( at 31.3.56)		£217,808
Sum represented by a penny rate	1955/56	£480
	1956/57	£832

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

#### LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	<u>339</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>162</u>
Illegitimate	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>353</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>165</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	17.2
Area Comparability Factor (Births) ...	1.09
Corrected Birth Rate (17.2 X 1.09) ...	18.7

#### STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	0.2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	14.0

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	<u>251</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>118</u>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	12.3
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) ...	0.96
Corrected Death Rate (12.3 x 0.96) ...	11.8

No. 30. DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION ... NIL

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

All infants per 1,000 Live Births ...	22.7
---------------------------------------	------

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

(Neonatal Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	17.0
---	------

## POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population 20,500 is a decrease of 870 from 1954. It may be that allowance has been made for the fall in the strength of service personnel in the District.

The natural increase in population, the excess of births over deaths, was 102.

## BIRTH RATE

Births numbered 353, making the Birth Rate of 17.2 per 1000 of the population as compared with 16.9 in 1954, and with 15.0 for England and Wales. Due allowance should be made for the high proportion of elderly people in the District so that the corrected Birth Rate 18.7 is used for the purposes of comparison.

## DEATH RATE

Deaths totalled 251, making the Death Rate 12.3 per 1,000 of the population as against the national rate, 11.7. Again for the reasons mentioned above, the Corrected Death Rate may be calculated and this figure 11.8, corresponds closely with the rate in the country as a whole.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

Eight infants died under one year of age, the infantile mortality being at the rate of 22.7 deaths for every 1000 births.

This low figure is much the same as the rate of 22. in 1954, and is lower than the national rate 24.9. Even so, it must be pointed out that the infantile mortality rate for England and Wales is the lowest ever recorded.

## CANCER

Thirty four persons died from cancer, an increase of four over the previous year. Cancer of the lung was the cause of death in the case of four men.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated list of International Statistical Classification:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	10



	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	16
18. Coronary disease, angina	19	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
20. Other heart disease	34	26
21. Other circulatory disease	3	5
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	2	4
24. Bronchitis	4	2
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	4	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2
34. All Other accidents	8	5
35. Suicide	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	-
All causes ... ..	133	118

BIRTH, DEATH, and INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES  
IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	17.1	18.6	19.9	16.9	17.2
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	12.3	11.4	9.9	11.1	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate(per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 year)	24.0	5.0	19.0	22.0	22.7
Neonatal Mortality Rate(per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 month)	21.0	5.0	12.0	11.0	17.0

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH & INFANTILE  
MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND & WALES,  
ARE GIVEN BELOW

	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>	<u>County of Glos.</u>	<u>North Cotswold R.D.</u>
Live births	15.0	15.42	17.2
Still Births (per 1,000 total (live & still) births	23.1	22.8	14.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.7	11.4	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 Live births)	24.9	24.1	22.7
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 month)(per 1,000 live births)	17.3	17.89	17.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS.  
AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1955  
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under 1yr</u>		<u>1 - 5</u>		<u>5 - 14</u>		<u>15-25</u>		<u>Over 25</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	4	7	-	-	-	-	5	8
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	8	13	5	9	-	2	-	-	14	25
Measles	4	3	50	63	114	102	1	-	3	1	172	169

	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14</u>		<u>15 - 44</u>		<u>45 - 64</u>		<u>65 and over</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pneumonia	3	-	-	1	2	4	6	4	5	3	16	12
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	2	3	5
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Scarlet Fever

Again there were few cases of scarlet fever. Only thirteen cases were notified and all were of a mild character.

Diphtheria

No case was notified.

Whooping Cough

The District was comparatively free from whooping cough. Only thirty nine notifications were received.

Measles

Measles is a disease with a biennial incidence and 1955 was an epidemic year, giving rise to 341 notifications as compared with 147 in 1954.

Poliomyelitis

There were three cases of poliomyelitis of which two were of the paralytic type. The incidence was the same as in the previous year.

Food Poisoning

Only one person was notified as suffering from Food Poisoning.

## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year :

	<u>Under 1 Yr.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15 and over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vaccination	121	19	7	9	6	162
Re-vaccination	-	-	3	5	17	25

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year expressed as a percentage of the estimated number of births during the year :

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
46	58	61	43	34

As in the previous year there was a fall in the number of children vaccinated, only 121 babies under one year of age were protected in this way as compared with 180 in 1954, and 247 in 1953.

When poliomyelitis is prevalent fewer children are vaccinated although vaccination bears no relationship to susceptibility to poliomyelitis.

In order that there should be a sufficient barrier to prevent epidemics of smallpox, at least 50% of babies should be vaccinated. In previous years the response has been good but there has been a falling off in the year under review.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	
Respiratory	1	-	20
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-	-
Other forms	-	-	2

### Deaths

Respiratory	1
Meninges & C.N.S.	-
Other forms	-

## Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st. December 1955 was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>C.N.S.</u>	<u>Other Forms</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
57	42	99	Nil	10	12	22	121



## TUBERCULOSIS (cont'd)

Twenty two new cases of tuberculosis were notified as compared with thirteen in 1954. The increase was due to thirteen cases discovered as a result of a mass radiography survey in the Polish Hostels.

Only one death was caused by tuberculosis. Modern treatment of the disease has brought about a great decline in the death rate from this disease, but the number of cases on the register has not decreased. The risk of infection therefore has not declined.

Vaccination against tuberculosis is now being offered to thirteen year old school children in Gloucestershire. There has been a good response and the protection afforded to the young adolescent at a time of life of particular susceptibility should bring about a fall in the incidence of this disease.



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st. December 1955:

Age at 31.12. 55 - i.e. born in year	Under 1. 1955	1. 1954	2. 1953	3. 1952	4. 1951	5 - 9. 1950-46	10 - 14. 1945-41
Number immunised	25	206	268	277	278	1509	1124
Total number immunised			3687				

Number of children immunised in	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Primary	326	329	267	292	460	263	320	362
Maintenance	346	255	168	262	258	260	278	238

326 children under fifteen years of age were immunised against diphtheria as compared with 329 in 1954. Of the children immunised, only 72 were babies under one year of age, representing 20% of the babies in this age group. This proportion is much too low.

The aim of the diphtheria immunisation campaign is to get three babies out of four immunised. Again the most important factor which is causing postponement of immunisation is the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the summer months.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949  
Article 20

At the beginning of the year a Notice issued under this Article was in force requiring the heat treatment of all the milk produced at a certain farm, owing to the presence of the organisms of undulant fever.

This Notice was withdrawn after a further series of samples were found to be free from these organisms.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  
Clean Food

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling, Wrapping, and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955

These Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, replace Section 13 of the 1938 Act, as the principal law relating to food hygiene.

The application of these new Regulations is much more extensive in that they apply, generally speaking, not only to food shops but to all "food businesses", and include canteens, clubs, schools and so on.

In the main the Regulations came into force on January 1st., 1956, and are designed to prevent contamination of food. Those requirements dealing with structural alterations e.g. the provision of sinks, washbasins etc., do not become operative until July 1st., 1956.

---

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47  
Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons  
in Need of Care and Attention

No application was made to the Court for a Removal Order under this Section.

A number of old people living alone and in failing health have been visited from time to time. A little regular help often enables them to carry on living in their own homes and prevents insanitary conditions arising. This assistance is usually given by the Home Help Service. The Old People's Clubs are most useful; they look after their members and report instances in which help is required.

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REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1955

1955-1956

## GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

### Laboratory Facilities

Samples of water, milk, and ice-cream and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examination of specimens is undertaken by Messrs. Ellis & Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

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### Home Help Service

This Service is organised by the County Council, and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment. The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from this Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices Charlton Kings, telephone number Cheltenham 55746.

### Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, Charlton Kings.

### Child Welfare Centres

Blockley	.....	Alternate Wednesdays
Bourton-on-the-Water	.....	Alternate Tuesdays
Chipping Campden	.....	2nd. & 4th. Wednesdays
Little Rissington	.....	- do -
Mickleton	.....	2nd. Tuesdays
Moreton-in-Marsh	.....	2nd. & 4th. Tuesdays
Stow-on-the-Wold	.....	1st. & 3rd. Tuesdays
Willersey	.....	2nd. Thursdays



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### H O U S I N G

Section 1. of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required all Local Authorities to submit to the Minister by 31st. August, 1955, proposals for dealing with unfit houses during the succeeding five years.

A survey showed that there are 350 unfit houses in the District to be dealt with in a period of ten years.

Clearance Orders embracing 32 houses have been operative for a number of years. These unfit houses are in villages where as yet, alternative accommodation is not available. 75 houses remain to be dealt with as clearance areas in a period of five years, and some 115 houses as individual unfit houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

During 1955, action was taken against sixteen houses under Sections 11 & 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, and preliminary steps were taken to deal with Clearance Areas in Oddington and Blockley involving twenty one houses.

It is not anticipated that all the houses represented will be actually demolished or closed, since the Council has given every encouragement to owners of unfit dwellings to carry out works to bring their properties up to a standard of fitness for human habitation, wherever this is physically possible.

Improvement Grants have enabled a large number of sub-standard houses to be reconditioned. No less than 56 grants were made during the year. The houses concerned are now in a good state of repair and provided with modern amenities. Without this aid it is likely that they would have become unfit for habitation and be replaced by Council houses.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936: Parts II and III. HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954: SECTION 1.

#### PROPOSALS:

Total number of permanent dwellings in the Local Authority's area:                      ...                      ...                      ...                      5,736.

#### Part 1. The total problem.

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936                      ...                      350
- (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)                      ...                      10 years

#### Part 2. Orders already made, etc.

- (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority... 32
- (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative ..                      ...                      ...Nil.



Part 3. Action in the first five years.

- (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years ... .. 6.
- (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister..75.
- (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation ...Nil.
- (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years ... .. 25.
- (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... .. 115.

ACTION TAKEN DURING 1955.

Houses demolished or closed in the period.

(1) Housing Act, 1936.

	<u>Houses</u>
(a) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ...	2
(b) Houses affected by undertakings given by Owners under Section 11 ...	12
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12).	1

(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) ...	1
---	---

Repairs in the period.

- (3) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of INFORMAL ACTION by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ... 39.

(4) Public Health Acts - action after Service of FORMAL NOTICE:

Houses in which defects were remedied

- (a) By owners ... .. 1.

NEW HOUSES:

Completed in 1955:-

Council Houses ...	63.
Private enterprise ...	37.

Programme for 1956 ... 78.

# WATER SUPPLY

## (Statistics Relating to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme)

Population of statutory area	21,893
Population served	19,000
Area served in square miles	90
Daily average consumption (domestic)	25 galls.per head
Daily average consumption (trade)	18 galls.per head
Total storage capacity	1,812,000 gallons
Length of mains	118 miles
Capital expenditure	£351,400
Total consumption (Direct & Bulk)	1,120,000 galls.per day

A new pumping station, chlorinating plant and headworks were brought into use at Dovedale, Blockley. The output of the pumps is 288,000 gallons per day. This new source feeds into the Springhill reservoir and will augment the supply in the northern section of the Council's Comprehensive Water Undertaking.

At Wyck Beacon construction was commenced on a reservoir of 180,000 gallons capacity. This reservoir will augment the supply in the southern section.

The Supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. 132 samples were taken from the Council's supply. 117 were classed highly satisfactory and fell into Class 1; 7 samples were Class 2; 5 samples Class 3 and 3 samples Class 4. The causes of the unfit samples were eliminated.

29 samples were taken from private sources, of which 10 were satisfactory and 19 were contaminated. Appropriate action was taken where the source was unfit.

The following table sets out the position with regard to water supply in the various Parishes :

	<u>Total No. of Houses</u>	<u>No.of Houses supplied by Public Mains</u>		<u>No.of Houses without Public Supply</u>
		(a) Direct into House	(b) By Stand- pipe	
Adlestrop	65	-	-	65 x
Aston Subedge	31	3	-	28 x
Batsford	55	26	-	29 x
Bledington	126	112	-	14
Blockley	683	623	18	42
Bourton-on-the-Hill	112	88	4	20
Bourton-on-the-Water	497	452	28	17
Broadwell	115	96	8	11
Campden	645	612	-	33 x
Clapton-on-the-Hill	32	29	3	-
Condicote	34	33	-	1
Cutsdean	33	-	-	33 x
Donnington	36	30	-	6
Ebrington	185	108	-	77 x
Evenlode	78	64	6	8
Great Rissington	93	70	13	10
Guiting Power	120	36	60	24
Icomb	52	42	-	10
Little Rissington	45	45	-	-
Longborough	133	124	-	9



	<u>Total No. of Houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied by Public Mains</u>		<u>No. of Houses without Public Supply</u>
		<u>(a)</u>	<u>(b)</u>	
		<u>Direct into House</u>	<u>By Stand- pipe</u>	
Lower Slaughter	78	58	-	20 x
Maugersbury	56	33	-	23
Mickleton	270	237	4	29
Moreton-in-Marsh	545	541	-	4
Naunton	123	95	20	8
Oadington	139	114	16	9
Saintbury	36	25	-	11
Sezincote	32	4	-	28
Stow-on-the-Wold	572	523	45	4
Swell	133	125	-	8
Temple Guiting	123	31	5	87 x
Todcnham	74	48	24	2
Upper Slaughter	82	80	2	-
Westcote	56	56	-	-
Weston Subedge	117	89	5	23
Wyck Rissington	50	43	-	7
Willersey	182	174	-	8

x Private piped supplies to a number of these houses.

#### SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

##### Bledington

The provision of a main sewerage system was nearing completion at the end of the year.

##### Bourton-on-the-Water

Work is in progress for the construction of modern disposal works and a pumping station.

##### Stow-on-the-Wold

The Minister gave his approval for work to commence with the scheme to provide sewers and sewage disposal system for Stow-on-the-Wold.

#### REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR 1955.

Complaints received	301
Informal notices	126
Statutory notices - Public Health Act	6
Nuisances abated	171
Premises disinfected	5
"    disinfested (Beetles, fleas etc.)	29
"    disinfested (Rats)	176
Food shops & Catering premises visited	432
Bakehouses visited	32
Houses inspected	395
Visits to Slaughterhouses	183
Drains inspected and/or tested	406
Animal carcasses inspected	1,964

Samples taken	63
Visits under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	1,375
Visits made for all purposes	4,561

### Refuse Collection

The district refuse collection has been maintained throughout the year. I am very pleased to make this statement, as in some districts this service has broken down owing to shortage of staff. The work is not popular and suffers from the greater attractions provided by employment in industry.

The new vehicle promised for delivery next year will relieve us of some worries, owing to the ever present possibility of break down of our oldest vehicle.

### Refuse Tips

Two refuse tips are now in use, one at Fish Hill and the other near Naunton. The Fosseway tip was closed down.

I have been very fortunate in obtaining an almost constant supply of covering material, this, with the help of the new equipment has enabled the tips to be kept in better condition.

### Paper Salvage

Collection is proceeding well and the weight disposed of is about 20% above that obtained in the period of operation before the slump.

Of course prices are lower, but still the service should show a useful profit.

### Food Inspection

The following foods were surrendered and destroyed or disposed of safely as being unfit for human consumption :-

#### Tinned Food

Milk	...	39 tins
Fish	...	16 "
Fruit	...	212 "
Cereals	...	6 "
Preserves	...	23 "
Soup	...	19 "
Vegetables	...	42 "
Meat	...	25 "
Fruit Juice	...	7 "
Ham	...	10 lbs. 3 ozs.
Tongue	...	6 lbs.

#### Miscellaneous Food.

Sausages	...	51 lbs.
Imported Beef	...	127 lbs. 2 ozs.
Suet	...	9 lbs.
Butter	...	½ lb.
Bacon	...	3¼ lbs.
Pork Pies	...	15
Fish Cakes	...	16
Cake Mixture	...	1 packet



### Miscellaneous Food

Sausage Rolls	...	6
Veal & Ham Pie	...	1
Meat Pies	...	12
Steak Pudding	...	1
Puff Pastry	...	6 packets

### Home Killed Meat

Livers	...	98lbs. 2 ozs.
Pigs Heads (6)	...	73 lbs.12 ozs.
Pigs Plucks	...	23 lbs.12 ozs.
Sheep (4)	...	273 lbs.
Bullocks Head	...	22 lbs.
Calf	...	39 lbs.
Pig	...	41½ lbs.

### Casualties

2 Pigs carcasses used by owners for animal feeding  
1 Pigs carcass sent to Knackers Yard.

### Slaughterhouses

The licenced slaughterhouses in the area now number 4, and 1 Knackers Yard.

A total of 668 carcasses were inspected after slaughter in this area.

A further 1301 carcasses were inspected by your inspector in course of visits to the Evesham Abattoir, a duty undertaken by arrangement between the respective authorities.

The number inspected in the North Cotswold area is 100% of the cases notified by the slaughtermen.

### Ice-Cream.

18 samples of ice-cream were taken and all proved to be Grade 1.

Very little unwrapped ice-cream is sold in this area in counter trade or by travelling salesmen, loose ice-cream is disposed of mainly in catering business.

The wholesale trade is in the hands of a few large firms, and although this may not give much choice of variety it certainly makes for safety. The great cost of plant cuts out small makers who are confined to cold mix creams which are not generally popular.

### Fish Fryers.

Four premises are registered for the preparation and sale of fried fish.

No nuisance has arisen from this trade.

### Milk Distributors.

Seven milk distributors are registered with the Council. The greater part of the supply handled by these tradesmen comes through the wholesale suppliers.

Only one complaint arose in connection with school milk, one sample proved to be of poor keeping quality, but follow up samples showed that the fault had been rectified.

26 samples were taken for analysis and the above mentioned sample was the only poor one.

### Food Premises

The shops and premises where food is handled comprise 61 grocers, 6 general shops, 14 greengrocers, 15 bakers, 14 butchers, 19 confectioners, 108 caterers and 6 fish shops.

97 premises are registered as follows :  
78 for sale of ice-cream; 4 for preparation of fried fish; 2 for sausage making; 4 as slaughter-houses; and 7 dairies.

The total visits to food premises was 762, of these visits 333 were to registered premises.

The following improvements were made and defects remedied: Roofs repaired - 2. Plaster repaired - 2. Premises redecorated or cleansed - 12. Extra dustbins - 3 cases. Drainage improved - 2. Sanitary accommodation improved - 3. Hot water provided - 2. Drains cleared - Rats and/or mice eradicated in 15 premises.

Many of the food premises are old and need the extra facilities that will be required by the new legislation, but food handlers in this area show a proper appreciation of their responsibilities. This is shown by the absence of any illness traceable to careless handling of food or dirty premises.

### Caravans.

25 caravan sites were under licence during the year and 18 were in force at the end of the year.

Generally speaking the sites were well kept and did not give rise to nuisance.

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No certificates of want of repair were applied for during the year, which shows that there has been no general demand for increased rents.

I think this is mainly due to the possible increases being too small to risk drawing attention to necessary repairs. The new valuation list may alter this position.

129 houses have been inspected and reports filed which will call for action under these Acts. Unfortunately, provision of new dwellings cannot keep pace with the need for them. and there is little sign of owners embarking on schemes of improvement for the benefit of sitting tenants.

In addition to the above, three areas were mapped and prepared for presentation.

The absence of proper postal addresses led to considerable work in identifying dwellings to which old reports applied.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

In course of operations under the above Act surveys were carried out at 281 Private Houses, 147 Business Premises, 32 Agricultural Properties, and 23 Council establishments and properties.

Infestations were found in 104 Private Houses, 38 Business Premises, 21 Agricultural Premises and 15 Council properties.

There were very heavy invasions of rats at the Council tips just after the harvest, it seems that the fine weather led to an increase of vermin in hedges and fields, which migrated to the tips as other cover was reduced.

1,375 visits were made solely for the purpose of working this Act and a further 575 for this Act in conjunction with other reasons.

With the exception of 2 business premises cleared by private contractors, these infestations were dealt with by the Council's Operator.

Greater use has been made of the new bait Warfarin, this being a very slow poison is probably the cause of less bodies being found as a greater proportion die in holes out of reach.

It is estimated from bodies found that the number killed is around 4,000.

No contracts have been renewed by the Air Ministry and changes of ownership has led to the lapse of other contracts. The only outstanding contract being with Chipping Campden Grammar School. This will please the Ministry of Agricultural, who have constantly stated that Councils should not undertake contracts, mostly I think with a view to reserving this work for the Ministry's Operators.

A.EDE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



